

CLAIMS

5 1. A method of determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, said configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters for said peripheral, a set of fixed values of said parameters defining a particular configuration of said peripheral, the method being characterised in that it comprises the following steps:

10 - obtaining (504) a user identification data item;
 - determining (506) user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item;
 - determining (508), as a function of the user characteristics, a configuration profile applicable for configuring said peripheral.

15 2. A method according to Claim 1, implemented in a communication network having at least one client station, one server station, and at least one processing peripheral, in response to a request sent from a client station to the server station, characterised in that it includes, before the
 20 step of determining a configuration profile, the following step:

 - obtaining (504) a peripheral identification data item, the configuration profile applicable then being determined (508) as a function of said user characteristics and said peripheral identification data item.

25 3. A method according to Claim 2, characterised in that the user identification and peripheral identification data are extracted (504) from the request sent by a client station to the server station, said request being able to be a document processing request, or a request to obtain a configuration profile.

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4. A method according to either one of Claims 2 or 3, characterised in that the steps of determining user characteristics and determining a configuration profile are accomplished by means of a database (44, 46) in which there are stored, associated together, peripheral data each
5 representing the identity of a peripheral, user data representing user characteristics, and configuration data each representing a configuration profile.

5. A method according to any one of Claims 2 to 4, characterised in that it also includes the following step:

10 - if required by the client station, updating (604, 606) the configuration of said peripheral in the context of the configuration profile applicable.

6. A method according to Claim 5, characterised in that the configuration updating step includes the following steps:

15 - receiving (500) from the client station a request for obtaining the configuration profile applicable;

- determining and sending (508, 516) to the client station the configuration profile applicable;

20 - receiving (600) from the client station the configuration profile applicable with at least one of the parameters having a modified value.

7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said user identification data item is a chain of characters
25 identifying a user and a password entered by the user in order to connect himself to the client station.

8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said user characteristics indicate a level of service
30 subscribed to by the user.

9. A method according to Claim 8, characterised in that a level of service subscribed to by a user is defined according to a financial sum paid by the user.

5 10. A method according to any one of Claims 2 to 9, characterised in that the peripheral identification data item is a network address of the peripheral.

10 11. A method according to any one of Claims 4 to 10, characterised in that said configuration data each representing a configuration profile indicate the electronic address of a computer object containing a configuration profile.

15 12. A method according to any one of Claims 2 to 11, characterised in that the network is the Internet.

13. A method according to Claim 11, characterised in that the client station and server station communicate using the HTTP protocol.

20 14. A method according to Claim 12 or 13, characterised in that the electronic address of a computer object containing a configuration profile is an address of the uniform resource locator (URL) type and said computer object is an object defined in an annotation language of the extended mark-up language (XML) type.

25 15. A method of obtaining a configuration profile determined according to a method as defined in Claims 2 to 14, characterised in that it comprises the following steps, implemented in a client station:

30 - generating and sending (400-410) to the server station a request to configure an electronic document processing peripheral, said request containing a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item;

- receiving (412, 414) a configuration profile of said peripheral from the server station, in response to the configuration request.

16. A method according to Claim 15, characterised in that it
5 also comprises the following steps:

- displaying (416) said configuration profile;
- modifying (420, 422) a current configuration associated with the configuration profile.

10 17. A method according to Claim 16, in which the peripheral configuration uses a peripheral driver, characterised in that it also includes the following step, when the driver of the peripheral is stored in the server station:
- sending (434) to the server station the configuration profile containing the modified configuration.

15 18. A method according to Claim 16, in which the configuration of the peripheral uses a peripheral driver, characterised in that it also includes the following step, when the driver of the peripheral is locally stored in the client station:

20 - using (426) the configuration profile for configuring the driver of the peripheral.

19. A method of configuring an electronic document processing peripheral, characterised in that it includes the steps of a method of determining
25 a configuration profile in accordance with any one of Claims 1 to 14.

20. A configuration method according to Claim 19, characterised in that it also includes the steps of a method of obtaining a configuration profile according to Claim 14 or 15.

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21. A device for determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, said configuration profile

representing a set of configuration parameters for said peripheral, a set of fixed values of said parameters defining a particular configuration of said peripheral, the device being characterised in that it comprises:

- means (42) for obtaining a user identification data item;
- means (42, 46) for determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item;
- means (42, 44, 46) for determining, as a function of the user characteristics, a configuration profile applicable for configuring said peripheral.

22. A device according to Claim 21, used in a communication network having at least one client station, one server station, and at least one processing peripheral, in response to a request sent from a client station to the server station, characterised in that it comprises:

- means (42) for obtaining a peripheral identification data item, the configuration profile applicable then being determined as a function of said user characteristics and said peripheral identification data item.

23. A device according to Claim 21, characterised in that it has means for implementing a method of determining a configuration profile in accordance with any one of Claims 3 to 14.

24. A device for obtaining a configuration profile determined according to a method as defined in Claims 2 to 14, characterised in that it comprises:

- means (36) of generating and sending to the server station a request to configure an electronic document processing peripheral, said request containing a user identification data item and a peripheral identification data item;
- means (38) for receiving a configuration profile of said peripheral from the server station, in response to the configuration request.

25. A device according to Claim 24, characterised in that it also comprises:

- means (32) for displaying said configuration profile;
- means (38) for modifying a current configuration associated with

5 the configuration profile.

- means (38) for sending to the server station the configuration profile containing the modified configuration.

10 26. A device for configuring an electronic document processing peripheral, characterised in that it includes a device for determining a configuration profile according to any one of Claims 21 to 23.

15 27. A configuration device according to Claim 26, characterised in that it also has a device for obtaining a configuration profile in accordance with Claim 24 or 25.

20 28. A server station connected to a communication network, characterised in that it comprises a device for determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, according to any one of Claims 21 to 23.

25 29. A client station connected to a communication network, characterised in that it comprises a device for obtaining a configuration profile, according to Claim 24 or 25.

30 30. A communication network comprising at least one server station according to Claim 28, and at least one client station according to Claim 29.